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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,296	11/18/2003	Jeremy Christin Patterson	18003 (AT: 20958-36)	6499

7590 07/13/2004

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EXAMINER

DINH, PHUONG K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/716,296	Applicant(s) PATTERSON, JEREMY CHRISTIN	
	Examiner Phuong KT Dinh	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U. S. Patent 2002/0119693).

3. Regarding claim 1, Chen discloses an electrical connector comprising: a housing 1 having a mating facing 6 that is configured to be mounted onto an electrical connector interface and a latch assembly 10 provided on a side wall (figure 3, read wall at leadline and portion of wall 16 as a sidewall) of the housing, the latch assembly being oriented to extend along the side wall, the latch assembly being formed on an end thereof proximate the mating face, the latch assembly including a pivot post 13 at an intermediate point along a length of the latch assembly the pivot post pivotally joining latch assembly to the side wall.

4. Regarding claim 3, Chen discloses the latch assembly includes at least beam (see figure 4) projecting forward from the pivot toward the mating face and a grip portion 12 projecting rearward from the pivot post.

5. Regarding claim 4, Chen discloses the latch assembly pivots about a rotational axis at the pivot post, the rotational axis extending transversely through the latch assembly at an intermediate point along the length of the latch assembly.

6. Regarding claim 5, Chen discloses a shroud 15 provided along at least a portion of the sidewall, the shroud extending along at least a portion of the latch assembly in an overlapping relation (see figures 1-2, 5).

7. Regarding claim 7, Chen (see figures 1, 2 and 5) discloses a shroud 15 provided on the housing, the shroud overlapping at least a portion of the latch assembly located between the pivot post and the mating face.

8. Regarding claim 8, Chen, see figure 2 discloses upper and lower shrouds 15 provided on the housing above and below the latch assembly, at least one of the upper and lower shrouds overlapping a portion of the latch assembly, the portion of the latch assembly abutting against the at least one of the upper and lower shrouds to limit a range of pivot motion of the latch assembly.

9. Regarding claim 9, Chen discloses the latch assembly includes a beam that pivots inward and outward and away from the sidewall, the connector further comprising a shroud extending beyond and partially covering the beam.

10. Regarding claim 10, Chen discloses the latch assembly includes a grip portion that is normally biased outward away from the side wall by the pivot post, the grip portion being pivot inward toward the side wall to release the latch element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Endo (U. S. Patent 6,514,099).

13. Regarding claim 2, Chen discloses the claimed invention except for the latch assembly includes upper and lower beams extending along the side wall. Endo discloses two beams 45. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chen to provide a smaller high latch.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

None of the reference discloses a shroud extending outward from the side wall the shroud having a flange spaced apart from the side wall to define a latch operating gap between.

15. Claims 11-20 are allowed.
16. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
17. None of the reference discloses the shroud having an outer flange spaced from the side wall defines a gap therebetween and a latch assembly pivotally provided on the side wall, the latch assembly being oriented to extend along the side wall.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

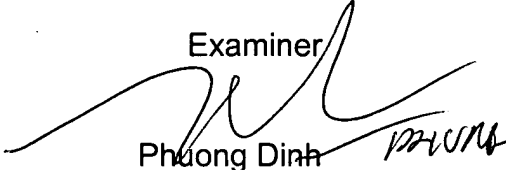
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2839

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner


Phuong Dinh
July 9, 2004.